Community Welcomes UVEI’s New Executive Director, Page Tompkins

At a lively gathering hosted by UVEI on September 12, the community came to welcome UVEI’s new Executive Director, Page Tompkins, EdD, and to catch up with one another. Well-wishers included elected officials, UVEI’s Board and staff, alumni, donors, representatives of the New Hampshire and Vermont Departments of Education, and community leaders.

Dr. Tompkins was chosen by UVEI’s Board of Directors after conducting a nationwide search over several months with participation from UVEI’s administrative staff and faculty. The combination of Page’s experience and UVEI’s long-range goals gives UVEI much to look forward to as we strengthen our ties to other educators in the region.

Page and his family have moved to the Upper Valley from Berkeley, California, where he was the founding Executive Director of the Reach Institute for School Leadership. There he worked with novice teachers, emerging school leaders, and principals on improving schools through effective teaching. In addition to his work at Reach, Page was an instructor in the Principal Leadership Institute masters program and the Leadership for Educational Equity doctoral program at UC Berkeley. He was the co-chair of the California Commission on Teacher Credentials’ Teacher Preparation Advisory Panel, a member of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Educator Excellence Task Force, and a member of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching’s Carnegie Knowledge Network on measuring teacher effectiveness. He had previously served on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession Continuum of Practice Working Group.

As a testament to the breadth of the UVEI network, one guest commented on the high energy and warmth of the event, saying that she had come to wish Page well and, as it turned out, saw many people she knew from other roles and times in her life. “It’s what makes the Upper Valley special,” she said. “Few degrees of separation and lots of interconnections.”

UVEI Alumni Address June Graduates

Who better to tell newly-minted teacher graduates about life as a teacher than another teacher? Even better, two teachers. This year, our Teacher Class of 2013 was treated to two perspectives from the Class of 2009 alumni, each relating and remembering funny and touching stories about life in the classroom.

Jennifer Thompson, who teaches 7th and 8th grade Language Arts and Social Studies at the Unity Elementary School in Unity, NH, advised that “although I graduated four years ago, I still think of myself as a new teacher. I urge you to embrace and love the challenge. The journey continues and that’s what keeps me fresh and excited about what I do every day.” Tevye Kelman, a Humanities teacher at Randolph Union High School, told three stories about the nature of young learners—one humorous, one irksome, one poignant—each evoking the challenges, complexities and fun of teaching.
My family and I arrived in the Upper Valley just in time to experience autumn. This being the Upper Valley, that has, of course, meant a beautiful change of the seasons. As an educator, it also means the beginning of a new school year, which is always accompanied by a sense of renewal and possibility.

I was drawn to UVEI because I saw in this community a shared belief that powerful teachers and great schools can change lives. Since arriving in early August, I have had the opportunity to speak with many of you: current interns, mentors, coaches and faculty; program graduates; former mentors and supervisors; partner school principals; and community supporters. Through talking with and listening to you all, my initial feelings about UVEI have been confirmed. This is a community of educators that cares deeply about growing great teachers, great leaders and great schools. In particular, I have been struck by:

- The deep reservoir of support and affection for UVEI in the Upper Valley and with educational policymakers in both New Hampshire and Vermont.

This support is clearly derived from UVEI’s long history of developing great teachers and impacting schools across the region. I owe a debt of gratitude to all of the leaders who came before me and who had a hand in creating and sustaining this program.

- The experiential nature of our program, and the power of interns working side-by-side with exceptionally experienced and skilled mentor teachers. It is clear to me that graduates of UVEI programs are more competent and more experienced than virtually any other newly-licensed educator.

- The visionary and committed team of educational leaders who work with UVEI and support the learning of our interns. The faculty, staff, mentors and coaches who are part of UVEI are exceptional, and work tirelessly to raise up the next generation of teachers and leaders. I feel privileged to be amongst such a team!

With these strengths as a foundation, we set out to write the next chapter in UVEI’s history. We are guided by what research consistently demonstrates, and what we as educators have long known: Teachers have a tremendous impact on students’ learning and development, and that the most effective schools and school leaders work to maximize teachers’ effectiveness. In the months and years ahead, we will continue to focus and refine our approach to preparing skilled teachers. We will continue to develop our leadership and masters degree programs, ensuring that exceptional teachers and leaders develop and share their practice.

None of this is possible without the support and commitment of each of you. Our volunteers, mentors, donors, school partners and alumni make this work possible. Your support makes our interns’ experience here both affordable and rich. Thank you!

With best regards,

R. Page Tompkins

Thirty-five individuals are enrolled in the Teacher Class of 2014, many already having had experience as classroom substitutes and education assistants. Several interns already hold a graduate degree and three are participating in UVEI’s Masters Degree Program. The mean age of the class is 34 years old.

Eight talented educators comprise the Principal Class of 2014. The group’s candidates for certification are both classroom teachers and administrators, including an Assistant Principal, a Department Chair and a Development Behavior Counselor. Two of our principal candidates are UVEI teacher alumni.
Class of ’97
Matthew Carlson is now Assistant Professor of Spanish and Linguistics at Penn State University.

Class of ’00
Heather Frost-Hauck is working as a Gifted Intervention Specialist for the Clermont County Educational Service Center in Ohio. She works in three districts that share services as a way to meet the needs of gifted students in grades 3-8. “Our gifted STEM program has received much acclaim over the past three years. It is a challenging, rewarding job for which UVTI prepared me well. I am looking for suggestions/ideas on how to teach and assess critical and creative thinking skills as we “fine tune” our curriculum. Any input would be welcome! (Heather can be contacted at: heatherfrost1@aol.com)

Class of ’06
Amanda Ehret continues to teach first grade at the White River School in White River Junction, VT.

After five years in Montpelier, Jennifer Ellis is now teaching second grade in Westford, VT. Jen was a mentor to a UVEI intern four years ago and reports that she loved it and wants to be kept in mind for future interns.

Class of ’07
In August 2013, Joseph Andriano moved to northern New York to take a position as Adjunct Instructor of Business Ethics at Clarkson University, where he teaches college sophomores who are primarily majoring in Business. Joe says that he has found the training he received at UVTI to be invaluable in helping him develop lesson plans, create meaningful assessments, and connect with his students. He is currently living in West Stockholm, New York with his partner, Sarah, and Louie the Cat.

Class of ’09
Eliza Hutchinson and Meghan Teachout (’12) are piloting a program at the Ottauquechee Elementary School to hold kindergarten class outside, all day, one day a week throughout the school year. The program is based on schooling models from Northern Europe and offers young students a chance to explore, experiment and understand the natural environment. Their hope is to create a model that can be adopted by other schools.

Class of ’10
Colin Blazej is teaching science at the Mountain School in Winhall, VT. “It took a while but I’m happy to be back in the classroom. I’m still playing as much music as possible and loving it.”

Brian Geraghty moved to Massachusetts, where he is teaching seventh grade History at the Carroll School.

Peter Ginsbury taught middle and high school Social Studies at Chelsea Public School in Chelsea, VT for the last three years. He recently relocated to Jackson Hole, WY, where he is looking for teaching jobs and, in the meantime, doing carpentry and waiting tables.

John Vorder Bruegge began his second year as a Correctional Instructor with the Community High School of Vermont at the Southern State Correctional Facility in Springfield.

Class of ’11
Carolyn Lynch is in her second year teaching tenth grade English at Bedford High School in Bedford, NH.

Becky Sanborn is happy to report that she is now a first grade teacher at Florence Rideout Elementary School in Wilton, NH.

Class of ’12
William Johnson is the special education assistant at Marion Cross School in Norwich, VT. He is also the boys’ reserve soccer coach for Hanover High School.

Jo MacMaster is in her second year of teaching at Stockbridge Central School in Stockbridge, VT.

John (JJ) Vasco worked at Windsor High School last spring teaching Math. He is in Uganda with the Peace Corps, where he teaches Math.

Class of ’13
Deb Dixon is teaching seventh and eighth grade science at Hartford Memorial Middle School and “having a blast messing around with science.”

Putnam Kidder is happily embarking on his first year of teaching Kindergarten at Andover Elementary/Middle School in Andover, NH.

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(603) 678-4888
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Alumni Notes
UVEI welcomes you to submit news about your career-related achievements (placements, promotions, awards and fellowships, special commendations). Send by email to: bmarshall@uvei.edu. Please note that your copy may be edited due to space limitations.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
**Board of Directors**

Michael Harris of Etna, NH, is currently the Superintendent at SAU #76 in Lyme, NH, and served for 11 years as the Superintendent at SAU #88 in Lebanon, NH. He was also the Director of the Teacher Education Program at Dartmouth College, where he led the teacher certification program for the college’s undergraduates. Dr. Harris graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College, received a Masters degree from Teachers College at Columbia University in New York, and a PhD in Education from the University of New Hampshire.

Dr. Harris has been an active participant on nonprofit boards and organizations in the Upper Valley. He is presently Chair of the Board of Trustees at Alice Peck Day Memorial Hospital and serves on the Board of the Ledyard Charter School. He has also served on the Board of the Lebanon Opera House and was the Executive Director of Second Growth in Wilder, VT.

Joan Holcombe of Lebanon, NH, joins the UVEI Board after a long career as a teacher and principal in Vermont and New Hampshire. Most recently, she was the principal at the Westshire Elementary School in the Rivendell Interstate School District and a special education consultant for the Vermont Department of Education. From 2003 to 2008, Ms. Holcombe lived abroad, where she was the principal at the Frankfurt International School in Germany and Head of School at the Tohoku International School in Sendai, Japan. Ms. Holcombe received her Masters degree from Antioch New England Graduate School and a CAGS from the Vermont College of Norwich University in Leadership in Education Administration. Joan is a regular volunteer at the Upper Valley Haven and the Enfield Shaker Museum. She is an avid alpine and cross-country skier.

**Faculty and Administration**

Erin Mullen, UVEI’s Program Associate and Librarian, joined the staff in 2012, filling the position previously held by Jane Leonard. (Jane has moved out of the area and is now living closer to her family near Rochester, NY.) Erin has worked in both public and college libraries, managed complex computer databases, and worked in multiple office environments. She expects to earn a Masters of Science in Library Science in May 2014.

Aimee Toth has joined UVEI’s faculty as Associate Director for Elementary Education. Aimee taught for 13 years, most recently at Thetford Elementary School. There, she was chosen to co-lead a dialogue and collaboration among teaching faculty concerning new classroom assessment skills in preparation for the school’s transition to Common Core Standards. Throughout her teaching career, Aimee has acted in leadership roles, primarily in the area of school-wide curriculum development. She has recently published an article, Not Just for After Lunch, in Reading Teacher, Issue 67:3. Aimee earned a Masters of Education from Plymouth State University and is a National Board Certified Teacher.

**ILEAD at UVEI**

**What a Drag or Far Out?**

From mid-January to mid-February 2014, UVEI will offer its fourth course through ILEAD (Institute for Lifelong Education at Dartmouth). What a Drag or Far Out? is a film series that will explore pivotal social and political issues of the 1970s. Five seminal movies, released between 1970-79, will be viewed, each illustrating a topic that was either new to the national conscience or being discussed “out loud” for the first time: the Vietnam War’s effect on the personal lives of those who served; the challenges faced by single women in a post-Roe v Wade, post-the Pill world; the consequences of a nuclear power disaster; the evolving experience of African-Americans; and the growing influence of corporate manipulation on world events.


The program will be led by Beverly Marshall, UVEI Associate Director for Institutional Advancement. For enrollment information, email ILEAD at ILEAD@dartmouth.edu or phone (603) 653-0154.
Principal Program Competencies
Updated

UVEI Adopts National ISLLC Standards

Last year at this time, we reported that UVEI had adopted competencies for the Teacher Internship Program to reflect the nationally-accepted model known as the InTASC (Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium) Standards. This year, we updated our Principal Internship Program competencies to the new national model known as the ISLLC (Interstate School Leaders Licensing Consortium) Standards.

Like the change made to the teacher competencies, these new standards will be very familiar to our alumni. The benefit of adopting the national model is that future graduates who seek certification in other states will have an easier experience of it by having a transcript that contains industry-wide language.

The six broad categories of the ISLLC Standards are indicated below. In their entirety, each standard is followed by the knowledge required for the standard, the dispositions or attitudes manifest by the accomplishment of the standard, and performances that could be observed by an administrator who is accomplished in the standard.

STANDARD I: Collaborating with Faculty and Community Members, Responding to Diverse Community Interests and Needs, and Mobilizing Community Resources.

STANDARD II: Acting with Integrity, Fairness and in an Ethical Manner.

STANDARD III: Understanding, Responding to and Influencing the Political, Social, Economic, Legal and Cultural Context.

STANDARD IV: Facilitating the Development, Articulation, Implementation and Stewardship of a Vision of Learning That is Shared and Supported by All Stakeholders.

STANDARD V: Advocating, Nurturing and Sustaining a School Culture and Instructional Program Conducive to Learning and Staff Professional Growth.


Masters Programs Extended to Non-UVEI/UVTI Teachers

Since May 2011, when UVEI was approved to grant graduate credits, several professional development courses have been offered to teachers who wish to develop their professional growth through a competency-based pedagogy. UVEI’s approach has been a collaborative one in that we prefer to work with teachers and administrators to develop courses that respond to their strategic goals or self-identified organizational need within standards that meet established competencies.

Our first initiative, Assessing Learning to Promote Learning, was developed with the Hopkinton (NH) school district. That was followed by a second initiative, Assessment: Holding a Mirror to Learning, in the Orange Southwest School Union in Randolph, VT, led by UVEI’s Associate Director for Secondary Education, Barrie North. During the summer of 2013, two courses were given, one designed to enhance teachers’ ability to design and implement an inquiry science unit using Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards (in partnership with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science), and a Math Common Core Seminar. The latter was created and led by Aimee Toth, UVEI’s Associate Director for Elementary Education.

UVEI is seeking to expand its professional growth partnerships with schools and teachers through two models:

School Goal Focused Seminar: UVEI will help a school design a course that is linked to a school’s self-identified goals.

Action Research Seminar: Teachers conduct a school action research study in an area of interest that improves or changes their school.

Feel free to contact us if your school is interested in designing a program that meets your professional growth development to improve student learning.
YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS GREAT TEACHERS, GREAT SCHOOLS AND CHANGES KIDS' LIVES.

Many of you have received our Annual Fund letter. If you have already sent your donation, we thank you. Your contribution allows us to meet the challenges we have set for ourselves in the coming year.

For those who have not yet responded (or do not usually receive a letter), you can play a part in helping us enhance UVEI's mission. Please consider supporting our commitment to enriching the lives of countless children through the work we do in preparing teachers and school leaders.

Yes, I/we wish to support UVEI's Annual Fund with a gift of:

- ❏ $50
- ❏ $75
- ❏ $100
- ❏ $200
- ❏ $250
- ❏ Other $ ______

Name: _______________________________________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____ Zip Code: _________
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Matching Gifts

Do you or your spouse work for a matching gift company? Yes, my/our gift is eligible for matching by:

- ❏ My Employer: _____________________________
- ❏ My Spouse’s Employer: _____________________________

Please enclose or send by mail a matching gift form from your Human Resources office.